

WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) has helped introduce the Redistricting Transparency Act, federal legislation that seeks an end to the drawing of Congressional district lines for partisan gain, known as gerrymandering.

“Gerrymandering is a process designed by incumbents specifically to protect incumbents, and it robs the American people of their right to be represented in a fair and meaningful way,” said Congressman Boyd. “The American people deserve better, and this legislation seeks to restore their voice as a key part of the political process. I have been a longtime supporter of responsible redistricting efforts, both nationally in Congress and locally with regards to Florida’s ballot initiative, and I am proud to be an official co-sponsor of this bill.”

The Redistricting Transparency Act requires open hearings when the redistricting process occurs, as well as a publicly accessible websites in each state that house data on Congressional districts so the public can watch and participate in the redistricting process. The public process would be overseen by the state’s redistricting entity, whether it is the state legislature or another body, such as an independent commission as outlined in the Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act, another redistricting reform bill co-sponsored by Congressman Boyd.

Congressman Boyd has long supported fair redistricting efforts. He has co-sponsored similar bills in previous sessions of Congress and is a proponent of Florida’s two redistricting ballot initiatives, which call for the creation of districts that are compact and contiguous and not drawn to favor one party over another.

The redistricting process occurs every ten years following release of the national census data. Currently, fewer than 100 of 435 House districts can be considered competitive within a 4-point margin of error, according to analysis from the Cook Political Report.

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**CONTACT:**

Christopher Cashman, 202-225-5235